AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. through 55. Canceled.

56. (Original) A method of providing an active agent topically, comprising:

providing a topical preparation, wherein said topical preparation comprises an internal phase and an external phase; wherein:

said internal phase is dispersed within said external phase;

said internal phase comprises at least one hydrophilic carrier and at least one active agent; and

said external phase comprises a silicone matrix;

placing said topical preparation in contact with the skin of a patient such that said active agent is released from said silicone matrix topically onto said skin of said patient.

57. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said active agent is selected such that said active agent may remove necrotic tissues upon release from said silicone matrix.

58. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said active agent is selected such that said active agent may cleanse a wound on said skin of said patient upon release from said silicone matrix.

59. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said active agent is selected such that said active agent may self-sterilize a wound on said skin of said patient upon release from said silicone matrix.

60. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said active agent is selected such that said active agent may provide anti-infection properties on said skin of said patient upon release from said silicone matrix.

61. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said active agent is selected such that said active agent may accelerate healing of a wound on said skin of said patient upon release from said silicone matrix.

62. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said silicone matrix is selected to have a cross-link density suitable for providing a desired rate of active agent release from said silicone matrix.

63. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said internal phase further comprises a hydrophilic component, and wherein said hydrophilic component is selected such that said active agent is released from said silicone matrix at a desired rate.

64. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said topical preparation comprises a patch having a thickness, and wherein said thickness of said patch is selected such that said active agent is released from said silicone matrix at a desired rate.

65. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said topical preparation has an occlusivity to air, and wherein said occlusivity to air of said topical preparation is selected such that said active agent is released from said silicone matrix at a desired rate.

66. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein:

said topical preparation has an occlusivity to fluid;

said active agent is selected such that said active agent may remove necrotic tissues upon release from said silicone matrix;

said occlusivity to fluid promotes a moist environment that allows swelling of necrotic tissues covered by said topical preparation such that said necrotic tissue becomes swollen; and

said active agent released from said silicone matrix selectively removes said swollen necrotic tissues.

67. (Original) The method as claimed in 66 further comprising:

providing a second topical preparation comprising an internal phase and external phase, wherein:

said internal phase is dispersed within said external phase;

said internal phase comprises at least one hydrophilic carrier and at least one second active agent selected such said second active agent inhibits said active agent selected to remove necrotic tissue;

said external phase comprises a silicone matrix; and

said silicone matrix comprises a silicone adhesive;

placing said second topical preparation on said skin of said patient around a wound on said skin; and

adhering said topical preparation over said wound by contacting said topical preparation to said second topical preparation, wherein said skin of said patient around said wound is protected from said active agent selected to remove necrotic tissues.

68. (New) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said at least one hydrophilic carrier comprises polypropylene glycol.

69. (New) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said at least one active agent comprises at least one hydrolase enzyme.

70. (New) The method as claimed in claim 69 wherein said hydrolase enzyme is selected from lipases and proteases.

71. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70 wherein said protease comprises LG12.